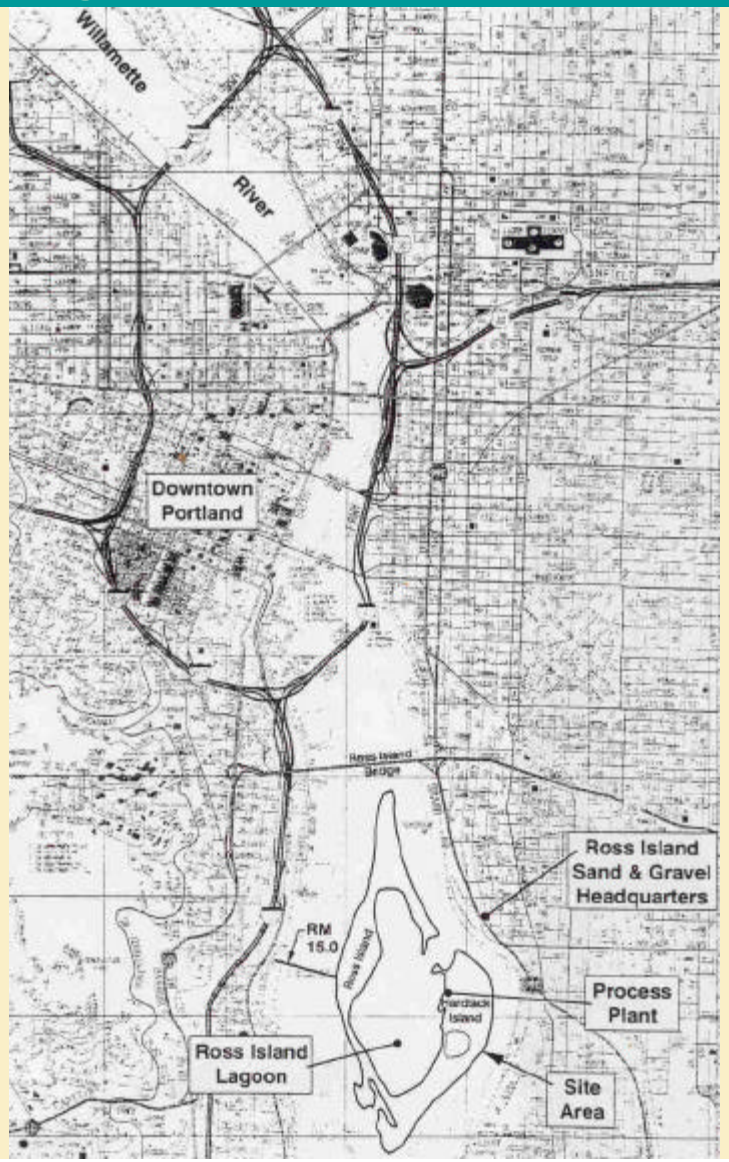
Ross Island CAD Cell Evaluation - Community Involvement Approach



State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

PORT OF PORTLAND

EPA Forum on Contaminated Sediment Management

May 30, 2001

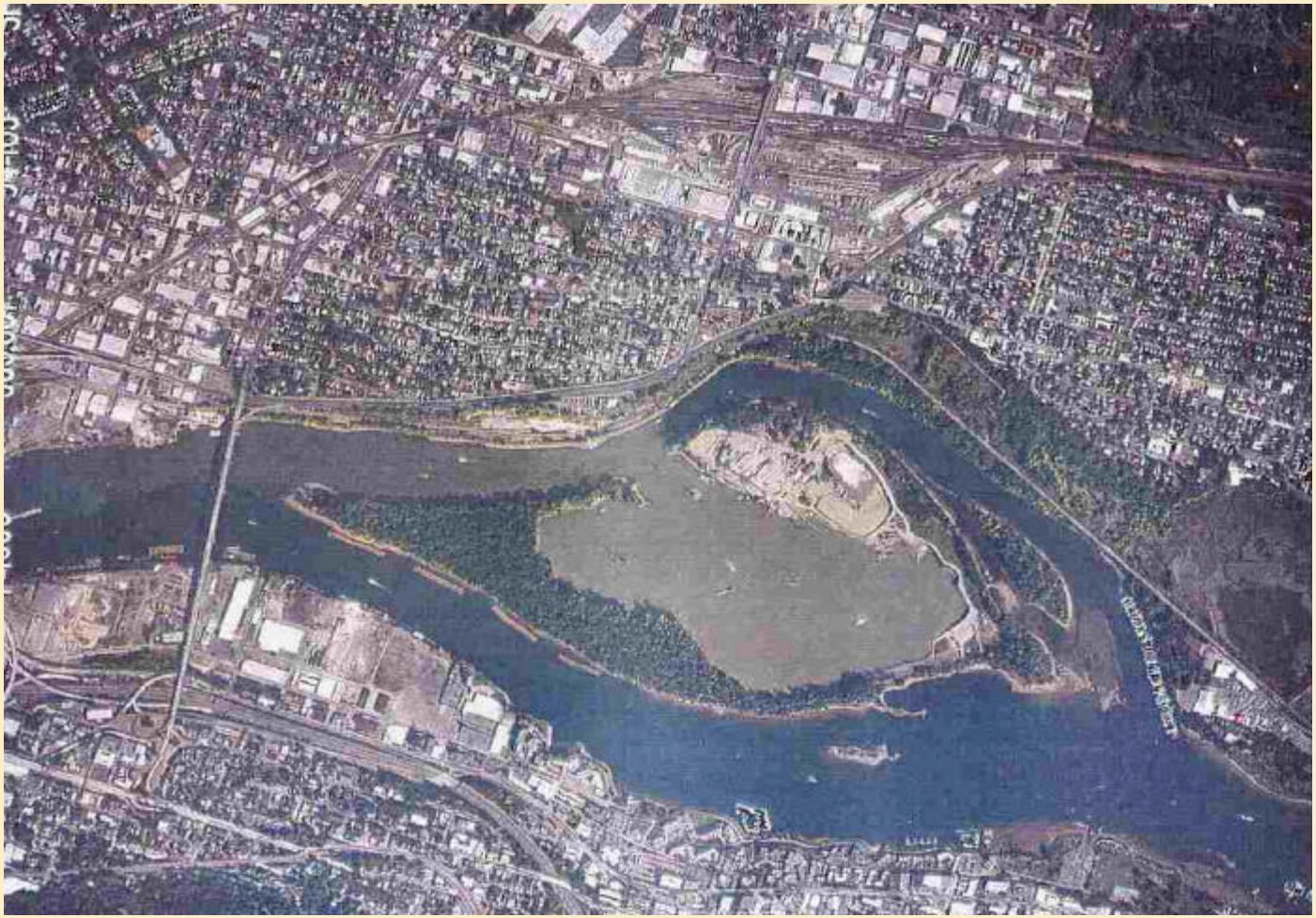
Ross Island

- Background/history
- Community Involvement
- Evaluation

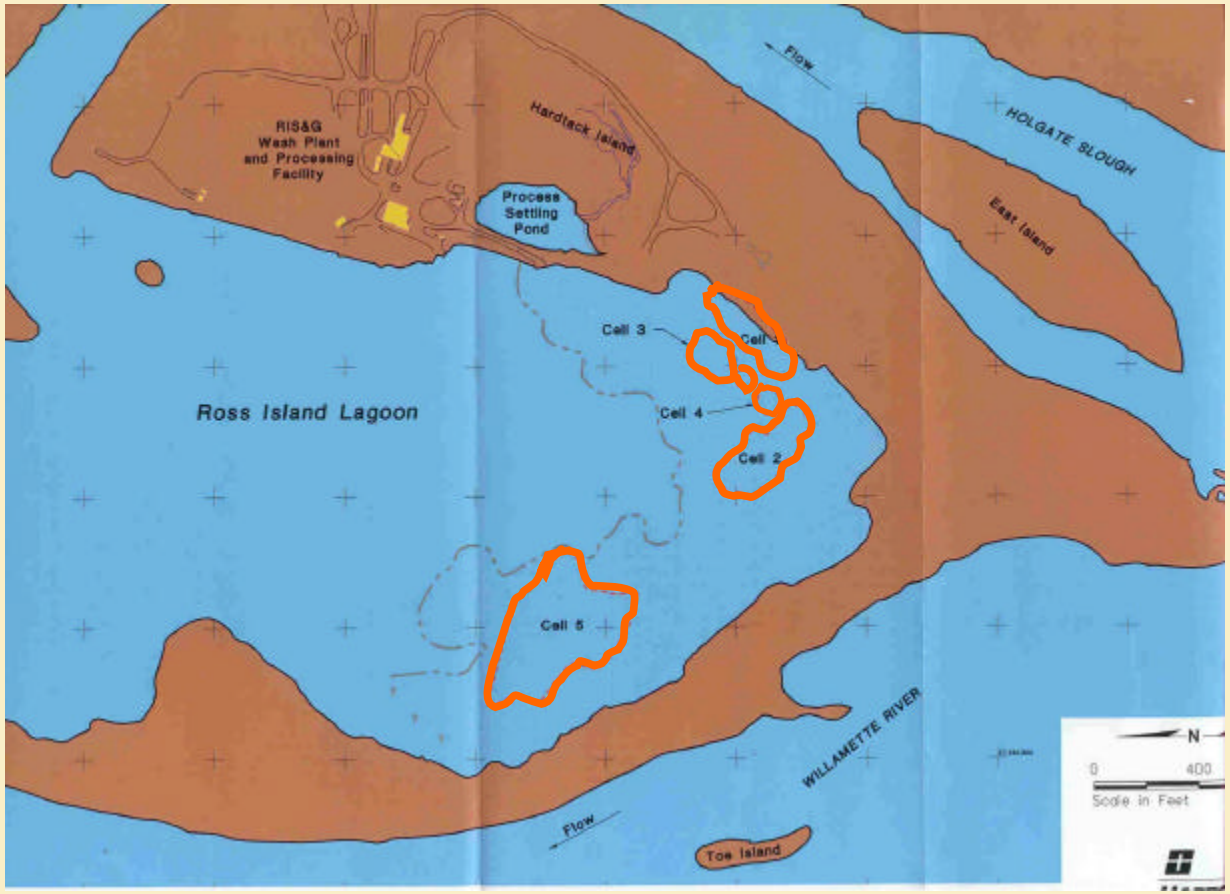
Ross Island Chronology

- July 1926 RISG acquires the islands and ownership is established over the area defined by the low water line surrounding the islands
- October 1967 RISG issued removal permit following effective date of Oregon's removal law
- 1972 RISG proposed to mine entire islands away - denied by Oregon AG, RISG proposed to connect the northern ends of the islands forming a private pond - denied by COE
- 1979 RISG's removal permit amended to include fill
- 1980 City of Portland issued Conditional Use Permit specifying reclamation details
- 1983 RISG began accepting fill materials from outside sources
- 1992 first confined disposal event of Port of Portland dredged sediments

Aerial view of Ross Island



Port of Portland Study



Concerns Addressed:

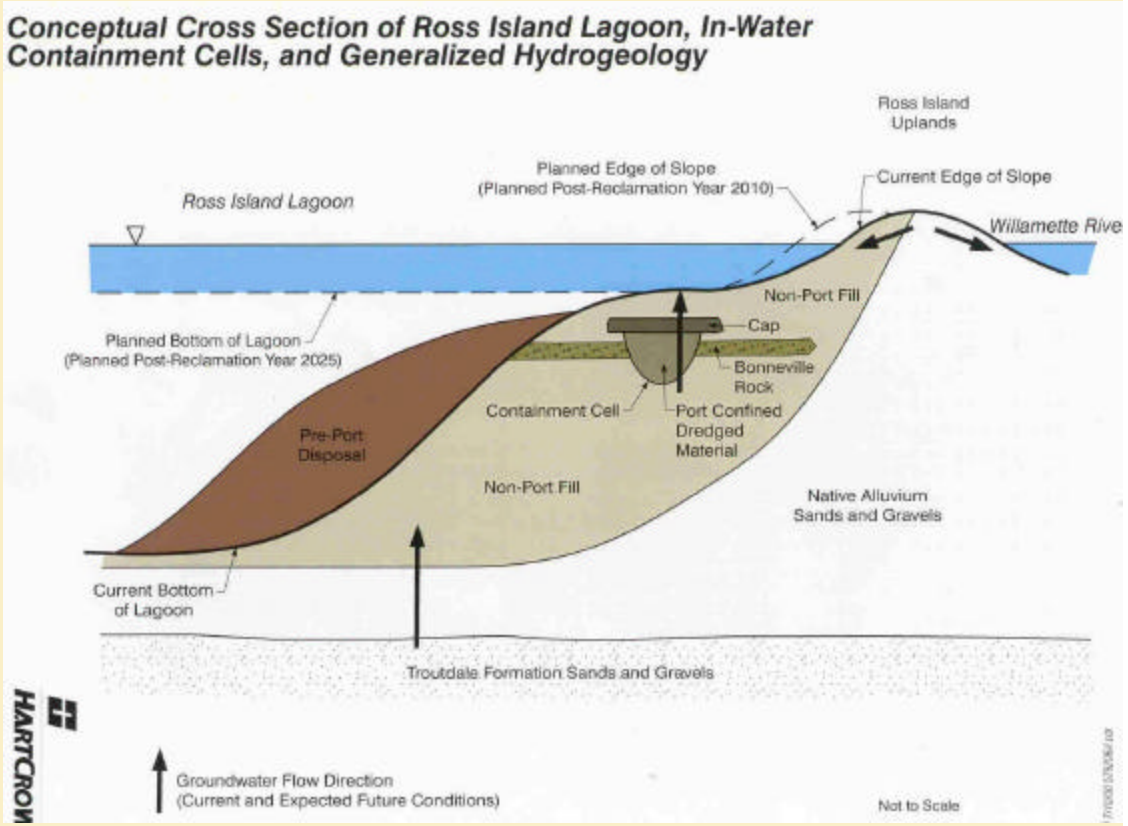
Contamination movement through caps and sidewalls

Contamination movement to groundwater below cells

Stability of cells considering erosion, seismic activity

Accuracy of placement of contaminated materials and cap

Changes in conditions over the long-term



Community Involvement Goals

- Effective, timely communication opportunities
- Build relationships
- Provide information
- Develop confidence in the study process and conclusions

Public Involvement Plan

- Blueprint for public information/participation
- Project summary/objectives
- Target audience/interested parties
- Schedule
- Updated

Technical Assistance Panel

- Objective review/input
- Resource to DEQ, Port, RISG, and public
- Areas of expertise
- Represent Agency - local, state, and Federal; environmental; research; and public

Neighborhood Meetings

- Home turf
- Reach more people
- Appreciated by the public

Other Outreach

- Public meetings
- Fact sheet
- Web Site
  www.deq.state.or.us/nwr/rossisland.htm
- Mailing list
- Information repositories

Evaluation/Conclusions

- TAP functioned well and was essential to project
  - Consensus on TAP not required
  - Commitment required is high
- TAP organized as Advisory, but ‘team’ atmosphere shared control of outcome
- TAP input significantly changed conceptual model, study design and improved results

Evaluation/Conclusions

- Community stakeholders were provided multiple involvement opportunities
  - Helped to build relationships/trust
- Independent TAP review built credibility
- Early and continuous efforts at keeping the public informed reduced public criticism (but not controversy)
- On-going need to educate on sediment management options